

SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
EAST MESA JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY
INSPECTION REPORT
2005

Facility Name: EAST MESA JUVENILE
DETENTION FACILITY

Inspection Date: 6/15/2005

Superintendent: Craig Stover, Probation Director

Last Inspection Date: N/A

Address: 446 Alta Rd, Ste 6100
San Diego, CA 92154

Telephone Number: (619) 401-4906
Fax 401-4921

Type of Facility: Juvenile Hall

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge:
Honorable Susan D. Huguenor,
Juvenile Court Presiding Judge

Staff Interviewed:

Brian Day, Senior Probation Officer
Marlene Tutt, Dietician
Dr. Masters, Psychologist

Facility Capacity:

Total Bed Capacity: 380
Population on inspection date: 190-220
Average Population: 250

Juvenile Justice Commission Chair: William Apan

Commission Inspection Team:

Jim Scott
Claire Andrews

Comments and Recommendations:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. More computers for the school.
2. More mental health professionals available for the wards.
3. More exercise / recreation time for wards housed in Administrative Segregation.

AREA REVIEWED:

R= Reviewed

NR=Not Reviewed

I= Interviewed

NI – Not Interviewed

QUALITY OF LIFE

Physical Plant - R
Meals/Nutrition - R
Mental Health - R
Physical/Dental Health - R
Religious Services - NR
Volunteer Involvement - R
Visiting - R

PROGRAMS

Education - R
Vocation/Employability - NR
Community Services - R
Victim/Gang Awareness - R
Substance Abuse - R

PERSONS INTERVIEWED

Minors - NI
Superintendent - NI
Medical/Pshyche. Staff - I
School Staff - I
Supervisor - I
Supervisor Staff (Counselors) - I
Food Services Staff - I

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Has the facility exceeded capacity since the last inspection?

No.

Does the facility house minors under Section 601 Welfare & Institutions Code?

Yes. Booking and transportation to the Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility.

Date of Last Fire Drill: By Unit – done monthly

SINCE THE LAST INSPECTION INDICATE:

Number of Suicides: 0

Number of Attempted Suicides: 8

Number of Deaths from other causes: 0

Number of Escapes: 0

Local Inspections: Fire Inspection: Each June – San Diego Rural Fire District inspects.
Title 15 Health Inspection: March 2, 2005
Facility Safety and Security: Monthly for each Unit; done by Senior/
Supervisor staff.

STAFFING

Staff to Child Ratio:

Awake hours ratio – 1 Staff representative for every 10 wards.
Sleeping hours ratio - 1 Staff representative for every 30 wards.
Minimum staff: 24 AM, 23 PM, 10 Night (not including Supv.)

Communication In Language Minor can Understand?

English/Spanish and translation services.

Diversity of Staff:

Diversity of Staff was not specifically addressed during the 2005 site inspection.

Staff/Minor Interactions:

Wards out 9 hours per day. Five wards to one counselor. They meet weekly.

EXTERIOR OF BUILDINGS

General condition, paint, roof, drains/gutters and etc.:

Over \$1,000,000 in construction reserve; new facility.

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INTERIOR OF BUILDINGS

Are cleaning fluids and chemicals labeled and safely stored?

Each unit has locked room for supplies.

Weapons Locker Location:

None. Staff has pepper spray in control.

Recreation/Sports Equipment:

Basketball, dodge ball, soccer, volleyball. Two to 2.5 hours per day of physical activity; more on weekends – 5 hours.

Are the hallways clear and doors propped open?

No doors propped open.

Court Holding Area:

Not applicable to East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility.

Sleeping rooms/dormitories:

Individual rooms ½ of rooms. Forty (40) beds per unit. Twenty (20) are single rooms; 10 are double. Not ethnically split up. Staff make room decisions.

Beds:

Complies with Title 24.

Art, books, personal possessions allowed in sleeping rooms?

Books, homework, personal papers.

Graffiti Present?

Present.

Ample blankets?

One to two per minor, per Title 15.

Study Area:

In classroom.

Adequate Lighting?

Yes.

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Temperature:

71 degrees.

ORIENTATION OF MINORS

Are minors oriented to rules and procedures?

Yes, minors sign that they have read rules.

Are rules and grievance procedures posted?

Yes, in the units.

Are rules and grievance procedures understood by minors?

Yes, in orientation.

Minors Interviewed – Comments

None.

MEALS/NUTRITION

Kitchen – Clean; are knives and chemicals locked?

Yes.

Have the youths working in the kitchen been trained?

Four at one time. Some training; no food preparation.

Are meals served or cafeteria style?

Served in dayroom. Meals proportioned; prepared off site (hot packs).

Are minors permitted to converse during meals?

Of course. At least 50% must eat in common areas.

Is Staff present and supervising?

Yes.

Is weekly menu prepared? Is it posted?

Yes.

Are servings ample, nutritious and appetizing?

2900 calories/day; 95 grams Fat. Dietician visits once per week – 38 day cycle. No more than 12 hours without food.

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Are weaker youths protected from having food taken from them?

Minors cannot share food.

Length of time allowed to eat:

Twenty (20) minutes minimum; 30-40 minutes average.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF MINORS

Showers – Frequency? Privacy maintained? Supervised by Staff? Any assaults in showers?

Daily.

PROGRAMS

Access to Religious Services?

Catholic/Protestant. Once a week. Other religions can be accommodated.

Medical/mental health Services:

Psychologist there 40 hours a week – Home sickness; Depression.
Two on staff and two psychiatrists.

Programming:

Donavan inmates – Diversion program
Spectrum – Anger Management and other programs
Wellness Team – Dept. of Health
Character Counts – Staff
Thinking for a Change – Staff

Substance Abuse Counseling:

Through Spectrum and staff.

Gang Awareness Classes:

Yes, done by staff and Spectrum.

Sexual Harassment Classes:

Daily statement by wards.

Parenting Classes:

No, but will in future.

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DISCIPLINE OF MINORS

Frequency and type:

Markdowns (minor) – Four levels. Fighting and other offense started at 22 hours room confinement (except for school or recreation).

Number and Type:

In Orientations. Five to seven a week. Mostly for disputes about markdowns.

TELEPHONE

Access:

One collect call per week minimum; generally more per staff discretion. Five minutes or more; staff approves.

CORRESPONDENCE

Is Postage Free? Is incoming and/or outgoing mail read? Is there confidential correspondence?

Postage is free. Mail is scanned by staff; no envelopes or stamps. Checked for contraband only.

VISITING

Is there adequate space, convenient times or accommodations to parent work schedule, etc. special visits? Does staff supervise visits? Is there adequate privacy?

Thursday and Sunday, 2 hours per week. Professional visits 8-8. Nine staff supervise. Adequate privacy if required. TV for admin. segregation (1-2 per day average). Rooms and common room; 9 officers present.

Have all minors had visits?

Family difficulties or foster parents. Teleconference rooms for P.O. visits.

SCHOOL

Teachers – Number of full-time; frequency of substitutions.

10 contracted teachers, 3 Special Ed.
8 long-term substitute teachers due to fluctuation of count.

Number of minors attending school.

230 as of 5/2/06.

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Number of minors not attending. Reason?

Average 8 not attending – usually due to medical issues.

Number of minors in each classroom.

20 to 1 ratio.
15 to 1 max security.

Number of minors on independent study.

None.

Atmosphere of classroom:

Acoustics bad – no insulation or carpet which causes echoing.

Adequate supplies? Books, paper, computers, etc.:

Per instructor Alicia McBride, the education program could use more computers.

Activities and Coursework:

Aligned with Western Association of Schools & Colleges (WASC).

Are minors required to do homework?

No pencils except one unit. No homework. Not enough staff to monitor. Saturday morning tutors for one unit. Tutored two days/week for those who did not pass high school exit exam.

Relationship between school and Juvenile Hall staff.

No problems.

Describe access to school, recreation, exercise and recreation for minors confined to rooms:

Hour for school through the door; 1 hour a.m. and 1 hour p.m.

ACCESS TO MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Access to medical services is adequate, but staff felt there should be more mental health providers.

/end